

Parent File FO 83 O (8)/Sale File WM 60467–Vilas County 40.27 Acres

The Department acquired this parcel as a part of a larger transaction for \$3,173.04 in 1911.

This parcel is a part of the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest (NHAL) exclusion zones. The NHAL Master Plan, approved by Natural Resources Board (NRB) action in 2005, included acquisition exclusion areas in and around the Towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Sayner, St. Germain, and Lake Tomahawk. These exclusion areas were originally removed from the Northern Highland and American Legion State Forest Administrative boundaries in 1975 by NRB action. The 1982 and 2005 NHAL Master Plans recognized this action and the continued interests of the local Towns for these areas to remain as exclusion areas and not be included in the NHAL project boundary. The intent of the 1975 action, and the two subsequent master plan actions, was to adjust the project boundary and remove lands from the NHAL project boundary, as well as the State Forest designation. The rationale for all three actions was to allow the Department the ability to divest the lands by trade or sale, for more appropriate forested lands within the NHAL and allowing the Towns to direct local growth and development in and around their communities.

The Department is recommending that a portion of this property be offered for sale. The portion to be retained would maintain public access to Elizabeth Lake, provide a public access point into the larger NHAL property from a town road and maintain a buffer for the Manitowish River. Parcels to the west and east (outside the NHAL project boundary) have been sold as a part of previous phases of the land sales program.

The majority of this parcel is productive timber composed of mature aspen and pine.

The Department has not made substantial investments in infrastructure on the property.

Public use of the property being recommended to be retained includes Snowmobile Trail 15, which intersects the parcel along a town road. The public can access the parcel through High Lake and Dam Roads.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer a portion of this land for sale (40.27 Acres) under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats.

